Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/079,349	PACKEBUSH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sathyanarayan Pannala	2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *9/8/2006*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-6,8-33*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date *attached* .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

SRPannala

Sathyanarayan Pannala
Primary Examiner

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/8/2006 has been entered.

2. Applicant's Amendment filed on 9/8/2006 has been entered with amended claims 1, 7-9, 15, 21-27 and 33. In this Office Action, claims 1-33 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Kent B. Chambers on 11/16/2006.

Replace existing claims on record with the following claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for navigating and displaying a plurality of relational objects, the method comprising:

receiving a selection input;

identifying, based on the selection input, a focus node, the focus node being one of a plurality of relational objects, wherein:

the plurality of relational objects comprise a node link structure;

the node link structure further comprising a plurality of hierarchies of nodes;

a first of the plurality of hierarchies shares the focus node with a second of the plurality of hierarchies;

the focus node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy and a second parent node in the second hierarchy;

the focus node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy;

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes; and

the second hierarchy does not include the first child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

displaying the focus node on a display medium;

determining a context for the focus node, wherein ~~the context identifies one of the first and second hierarchies~~ determining a context for the focus node includes receiving a selection identifying one of the first and second parent nodes and the context identifies the hierarchy containing the parent node identified by the received selection; and

displaying the parent node and at least one child sub-tree from the hierarchy identified by the determined context without displaying the parent node and child sub-tree in the hierarchy not identified by the determined context.

2. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein displaying the focus node further comprises displaying the focus node in a textual format, wherein the textual format is a format other than a format that illustrates the focus object and the first related object as nodes connected by a graphical relationship symbol such as a line or arrow.

3. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
displaying as a top grouping a subset of the plurality of relational objects; and
wherein receiving a selection input further comprises receiving a selection input that corresponds to a selected one of the relational objects in the top grouping.

4. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a find input;
performing a search of the plurality of relational objects in order to determine whether one or more of the relational objects is associated with the find input; and
if one or more of the relational objects is associated with the find input, displaying as a find grouping the one or more relational objects associated with the find input.

5. (Original) The method recited in Claim 4, wherein:
the selection input identifies one of the relational objects in the find grouping.

6. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:
one or more of the plurality of relational objects represents a person.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein determining a context of the focus node comprises:
determining a context of the focus node based on the selection input.

9. (Currently amended) A method of using a computer system for navigating and displaying a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

receiving data;

identifying, based on the received data, a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy;

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes; and

the second hierarchy does not include the first child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

receiving data identifying one of the first and second parent nodes as a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with ~~one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes~~ the hierarchy containing the identified parent node; and

providing data to ~~allow a display medium to display~~ a client computer system for displaying the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node without displaying the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes that are not determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

10. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 9 further comprising:

providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

11. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein the context of the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

12. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 9 further comprising:

identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;

identifying the first and second parent nodes; and

identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

13. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein determining a context of the focus node comprises:

receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node, wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

14. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 9 wherein identifying a context of the focus node comprises:

identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

15. (Currently amended) A method of using a computer system for navigating and displaying a plurality of nodes, the method comprising:

providing data that identifies a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of the plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy; and

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes; and

the second hierarchy does not include the first child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

providing data that identifies one of the first and second parent nodes as a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with ~~one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes~~ the hierarchy containing the identified parent node; and

displaying, on a display medium, the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node without displaying the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes that are not determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

16. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 15 further comprising:

displaying on a display medium the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

17. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein the context of the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

18. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 15 further comprising:

providing data to identify the first and second hierarchies of nodes;

providing data to identify the first and second parent nodes; and

providing data to identify the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

19. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein determining a context of the focus node comprises:

providing data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node, wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

20. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 15 wherein identifying a context of the focus node comprises:

providing data identifying a context of the focus node.

21. (Currently amended) A computer ~~program media~~ readable storage medium comprising processor executable code for:

identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of a plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy;

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes; and

the second hierarchy does not include the first child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

receiving data identifying one of the first and second parent nodes as a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with ~~one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes~~ the hierarchy containing the identified parent node; and

providing data to ~~allow a display medium to display~~ a client computer system for displaying the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node without displaying the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes that are not determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium recited in Claim 21 further comprising processor executable code for:

providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium recited in Claim 21 wherein the context of the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium recited in Claim 21 further comprising processor executable code for:

identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;

identifying the first and second parent nodes; and

identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium recited in Claim 21 wherein the code for determining a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node, wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first

hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer ~~program product~~ readable storage medium recited in Claim 21 wherein the code for identifying a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:

identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

27. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor, and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising processor executable code for:

identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of a plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy;

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes; and

the second hierarchy does not include the first child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

receiving data identifying one of the first and second parent nodes as a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with ~~one of the first hierarchy of~~

~~nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes~~ the hierarchy containing the identified parent node; and

providing data to ~~allow a display medium to display~~ a client computer system for displaying the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node without displaying the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes that are not determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer system recited in Claim 27 further comprising processor executable code for:

providing data to allow the display medium to display the parent node of the focus node in the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the context of the focus node is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer system recited in Claim 27 further comprising processor executable code for:

identifying the first and second hierarchies of nodes;

identifying the first and second parent nodes; and

identifying the first and second child sub-trees of nodes.

31. (Previously Presented) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the code for determining a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:

receiving data identifying one of the first parent node and the second parent node, wherein if the first parent node is identified, the context is associated with the first hierarchy of nodes and if the second parent node is identified, the context is associated with the second hierarchy of nodes.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer system recited in Claim 27 wherein the code for identifying a context of the focus node further comprises processor executable code for:

identifying a context of the focus node based on the received data.

33. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

means for identifying, based on received data, a focus node, wherein:

the focus node is one of a plurality of nodes and is a common node of a first hierarchy of nodes and a second hierarchy of nodes;

the plurality of nodes are included in a node link structure;

the plurality of nodes include the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node has a first parent node in the first hierarchy of nodes and has a second parent node in the second hierarchy of nodes;

the focus node is a parent node for a first child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the first hierarchy and is a parent node for a second child sub-tree of one or more nodes in the second hierarchy;

the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree of one or more nodes; and

the second hierarchy does not include the first child sub-tree of one or more nodes;

means for receiving data identifying one of the first and second parent nodes as a context of the focus node, wherein the context is associated with ~~one of the first hierarchy of nodes and the second hierarchy of nodes~~ the hierarchy containing the identified parent node; and

means for providing data to ~~allow a display medium to display~~ a client computer system for displaying the focus node and the one or more nodes of the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes determined to be associated with the context of the focus node without displaying the child sub-tree of the hierarchy of nodes that are not determined to be associated with the context of the focus node.

Reasons for allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Prior art of record does not appear to teach, suggest or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 15, 21, 27 and 33. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest in combination of claimed elements including "the first hierarchy does not include the second child sub-tree and the second hierarchy does not include the first child sub-tree and displaying the focus node and only the parent node with at least one child sub-tree from the hierarchy identified by the determined context" as recited in independent claims 1, 9, 15, 21, 27 and 33.
- Applicant's argument stated in the Remarks section of the Amendment filed on 9/8/2006 in response to the Final Office Action mailed on 3/8/2006, page 21, paragraph two as "From the present Application Figures 9 and 10, several distinctions form the teachings of Lyness in view of Hugh and Furnas can be seen, such as the two hierarchies are displayed separately, each has one common focus node displayed; however, apparent node and child nodes of the one hierarchy is not displayed with the other hierarchy." Further, Applicant argument at page 22 stated as "Applicants respectfully submit that Lyness in view of

Hugh and Furnas does not teach a focus node common to two distinct hierarchies." The argument is persuasive and convincing.

- Applicant agreed to amend independent claims 1, 9, 15, 21, 27 and 33 to add dependent claim 7 limitations and canceling it. Applicant also amended claims to over come 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection, during the telephone interview on 11/16/2006. Further, Applicant authorized the examiner for an Examiner's Amendment to expedite the prosecution.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sathyanarayan Pannala whose telephone number is (571) 272-4115. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SRPannala

Sathyanarayan Pannala
Primary Examiner

srp
November 20, 2006